

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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R 041445Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8963

USIA WASHDC

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

USNATO BRUSSELS 1166

AMEMBASSY ROME

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

UNCLAS BELGRADE 1575

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, YO, US, NATO

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: "DARK IMAGE, 74" MANEUVERS

REF : BELGRADE 1536

1. DECREASED EMPHASIS NOTED IN APRIL 4 YUGOSLAV MEDIA ON JOINT ITALIAN-U.S. MANEUVERS IN NORTHERN ADRIATIC, WHILE PROMINENT COVERAGE CONTINUES OF COUNTRY-WIDE PROTESTS AGAINST ALLEGED ITALIAN TERRITORIAL CLAIMS ON YUGOSLAVIA. NO MEDIA COVERAGE EXTENDED YET TO EMBASSY PRESS STATEMENT THAT LONG-PLANNED, SMALL-SCALE EXERCISE IS IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH CURRENT ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV DISPUTE.

2. BELGRADE DAILY POLITIKA APRIL 4 (PAGE 6) CARRIES LENGTHY STATEMENT OF PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SLOVENIAN LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS, FRANCE POTIT AT SLOVENIAN PARTY CONGRESS.

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REMARKS INCLUDE MENTION THAT POLITICAL ROLE OF YUGOSLAVIA

IN WORLD HAS DRAWN VARIOUS "PRESSURES," SUCH AS PRESENT NATO MANEUVERS IN NORTHERN ADRIATIC, ITALIAN CLAIMS ON YUGOSLAV TERRITORY, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PROPAGANDA AIMED AT YUGOSLAV INTERNAL AND INTERNAL POLICY. POPIT REMARKS ON "PRESSURES" ALSO CARRIED ON APRIL 3 BELGRADE TV EVENING NEWS (DNEVNIK). POLITIKA (PAGE 3) ALSO CARRIES PROTEST STATEMENT OF PRESIDENCY OF REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE OF SERBIAN SOCIALIST ALLIANCE, WITH HEADLINE: "MORE THAT 400,000 SERBIAN VETERANS PROTEST ITALIAN-AMERICAN MANUEVERS." ALLIANCE VIEWS MANEUVERS AS "FURTHER ESCALATION" UNDERMINING YUGOSLAV-ITALIAN RELATIONS AND ABOVE ALL AS "OPEN PRESSURE ON SOCIALIST, SELF MANAGING YUGOSLAVIA AND OT ITS NON-ALIGNED AND PEACEFUL POLICIES."

3. BELGRADE DAILY BORBA APRIL 4 CARRIES BRIEF AP (VERONA) STORY, REPORTING SIMPLY THAT ITALIAN-AMERICAN MANEUVERS IN ADRIATIC ARE CONTINUING. SAME ITEM CARRIED ALSO IN POLITIKA, LJUBLJANA'S DELO, SARAJEVO'S OSLOBODJENJE, NOVI SAD'S DNEVNIK.

4. BELGRADE'S AFTERNOON DAILY VECERNJE NOVOSTI APRIL 3, AND EARLY MORNING APRIL 4 EDITION OF ZAGREB'S VJESNIK, CARRIED COMMENTARY BY TANJUG DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, VELIMIR BUDIMIR, WHICH HAS APPEARED IN APRIL 3 TANJUG BULLETIN (REFTEL).
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